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What is claimed is:

1. An information display system comprising:  
an information provider;  
a communication line connected to the information provider;  
a display; and  
a display controller which receives an active image and a passive image from the information provider through the communication line and displays the active image and the passive image in separate areas of the display.
2. An information display system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:  
the display controller displays the passive image in the front of the display.
3. An information display system as claimed in Claim 2, wherein:  
the display controller displays the whole passive image within the display.
4. An information display system as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising:  
a detector which detects whether or not the passive image is in normal status, normal status being a condition where the passive image is displayed in the front of the display and the whole passive image is displayed within the display; and  
a notifier which provides a notice, when the detector detects that the passive image is not in normal status.
5. An information display system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

the notifier displays the notice on the display.

6. An information display system as claimed in Claim 4 or 5, wherein:

the active image can be updated; and

the detector detects the status of the passive image after a predetermined period of time from the provision of the notice;

the information display system further comprising:

a display delayer which delays updating the active image when the detector detects the status as being not normal.

7. An information display system as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising:

a display suspender which suspends updating the active image when the detector detects the status as being not normal after a predetermined period of time from the time when the display delayer delays updating the active image.

8. An information display system as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising:

a communication disconnecter which disconnects the communication between the information provider and the terminal when the detector detects the status as being not normal after a predetermined period of time from the time when the suspender suspends updating the active image.

9. An information display system as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the active image can be updated, further comprising:

a detector which detects whether the passive image is in normal status, normal status being a condition where the passive image is displayed in the front of the display and the whole image is displayed within the display; and

a display delayer which delays updating the active image

when the detector detects that the passive image is not in normal status.

10. An information display system as claimed in Claim 6 or 9, wherein the display delayer delays updating the active image by delaying transmission of the active image from the display information provider to the terminal.

11. An information display system as claimed in one of Claims 6, 9, and 10, further comprising:

means for canceling the delay of the display delayer when the detector detects normal status within a predetermined period of time after the display delayer delays the update.

12. An information display system as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the active image can be updated, further comprising:

a detector which detects whether the passive image is in normal status, normal status being a condition where the image is displayed in the front of the display and the whole image is displayed within the display; and

a display suspender which suspends updating the active image when the detector detects that the passive image is not in normal status.

13. An information display system as claimed in Claim 7 or 12, wherein:

the display suspender suspends updating the active image by terminating the normal transmission of active images from the display information provider to the terminal.

14. An information display system as claimed in one of Claims 7, 12, and 13, further comprising:

means for canceling the suspension of the update by the

display suspender when the detector detects normal status within a predetermined period of time after the display suspender suspends the update.

15. An information display system as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising:

a detector which detects whether the passive image is in normal status, normal status being a condition where the image is displayed in the front of the display and the whole passive image is displayed within the display; and

a communication disconnecter which disconnects the communication between the information provider and the terminal when the detector detects the image as being not in normal status.

16. An information provider that transmits a plurality of images to a terminal having a display, using a communication line to which the terminal can be connected, the information provider comprising:

means for receiving a request for an active image actively designated by the user of the terminal from the terminal;

means for selecting the active image designated by the user from among the plurality of types of images, based on the user's request;

means for selecting a passive image to be displayed on the terminal from among the plurality of types of images, regardless of active designation by the user; and

means for transmitting both the active image and the passive image to the terminal so as to have these images be displayed on the terminal.

17. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising display control means for having the active image

and the passive image be displayed in different display areas provided on the display.

18. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising:

means for detecting whether or not the display state of the passive image is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display and within the allowed area of the display; and

means for warning the terminal when the detecting means detects that the display state is not the normal display state.

19. An information provider as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the warning means includes means for having a warning notice be displayed on the display.

20. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising:

means for detecting whether or not the display state of the passive image is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display and within the allowed area of the display; and

means for delaying updating the active image when it is detected that the display state is not normal .

21. An information provider as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the delay means delays updating the active image by delaying normal transmission of active images to the terminal from the information provider.

22. An information provider as claimed in Claim 20, comprising

means for canceling the delay in updating by the delay means when the detecting means detects that the display state is normal.

23. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising:

means for detecting whether or not the display state of the passive image is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display and within the allowed area of the display; and

means for stopping the updating of the active image when the detecting means detects that the display state is not normal.

24. An information provider as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the stop means stops updating the active image by stopping normal transmission of active images to the terminal from the information provider.

25. An information provider as claimed in Claim 23, comprising means for canceling the stopping of the updating by the stop means when the detecting means detects that the display state is not normal .

26. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising:

means for detecting whether or not the display state of the passive image is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display and within the allowed area of the display; and

means for disconnecting the communication between the terminal and the information provider when the detecting means

detects that the display state is not normal.

27. An information provider as claimed any of Claims 18 through 26, wherein the terminal has a display memory storing and holding the contents of the information displayed on the display; and

the detecting means detects whether the passive image is displayed in the normal display state by detecting whether the contents of the display memory are identical to the passive image transmitted from the information provider displayed in the display area for passive images.

28. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising means for having the passive image be displayed on the front-most surface of the display.

29. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising:

means for detecting whether the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display; and

means for warning the terminal when the passive image is not displayed on the front-most surface of the display.

30. An information provider as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the warning means includes means for having a warning notice be displayed on the display.

31. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising delay means for delaying the display of active images when it is detected that the passive image is not displayed on the front-most surface of the display.

32. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising means for stopping the updating of the active image when it is



detected that the passive image is not displayed on the front-most surface of the display.

33. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising means for disconnecting the communication between the information provider and the terminal when it is detected that the passive image is not displayed on the front-most surface of the display.

34. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising means for having the entire passive image be displayed in the allowed area of the display.

35. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising:

means for detecting whether or not the entire passive image is displayed in the allowed area of the display; and

means for warning the terminal when the passive image is not displayed in the allowed area of the display.

36. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the warning means includes means for having a warning notice be displayed on the display.

37. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising means for delaying the display of active images when it is detected that the entire passive image is not displayed on the allowed area of the display.

38. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising means for stopping the updating of the active image when it is detected that the entire passive image is not displayed in the allowed area of the display.

39. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, comprising means for disconnecting the communication between the information provider and the terminal when it is detected that the entire passive image is not displayed in the allowed area of the display.

40. An information provider as claimed in Claim 40, comprising:

a message database storing a plurality of passive images while associating each image with a display condition; and  
means for selecting passive images according to the associated display condition.

41. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising a user database storing a type of the user of the terminal, wherein:

the display condition includes the type of the user, based on which the associated passive image is displayed; and  
the selecting means comprises:

means for reading the type information of each user from the user database; and

means for selecting a passive image satisfying the display condition from the database, based on the type information read out from the user database.

42. An information provider as claimed in Claim 41, wherein the type of the user includes the user's age, sex, marital status, occupation, and address.

43. An information provider as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the display condition includes the upper limit, for each user, of the number of times each passive image is to be displayed on the terminal of the user, the information provider further comprising;

means for counting the number of times the passive image is transmitted to the terminal for each user; and

means for preventing the passive image from being transmitted to the terminal when the number of times the passive image is transmitted reaches the upper limit .

44. An information provider as claimed in Claim 43, wherein the upper limit of the number of times the image is to be displayed is a number of times per predetermined time period.

45. An information provider as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the display condition includes the upper limit, for each passive image, of the number of times the passive image is to be displayed on terminals, the information provider further comprising:

means for counting, for each passive image, the number of times the passive image is transmitted to terminals; and

means for preventing the passive image from being transmitted to the terminal when the number of times the image is transmitted reaches the upper limit.

46. An information provider as claimed in Claim 45, wherein the upper limit of the number of times information is to be displayed is a number of times per predetermined time period.

47. An information provider as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the display condition includes a requested display time for each passive image, the information provider further comprising means for transmitting the passive image to the terminal when the current time reaches the requested display time.

48. An information provider as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the information provider is connected to the Internet, and the

terminal has means for requesting information on the Internet as active images, the information provider further comprising means for selecting and transmitting information from the Internet to the terminal in response to a request from the terminal.

49. An information provider as claimed in Claim 48, wherein the active image is successively transmitted from the information provider and periodically updated on the display.

50. An information provider as claimed in Claim 49, further comprising means for transmitting product or service advertisement information to the terminal as passive images.

51. A recording medium storing a program for operating a terminal having a display and a means for connecting to an information provider that transmits a plurality of images through a communication line, the program comprising:

- means for causing the terminal to connect to the information provider through the communication line;

- means for causing the terminal to transmit a request for an active image actively designated by the user to the information provider;

- means for causing the terminal to receive the active image selected, based on the request, from among the plurality of images from the information provider;

- means for causing the terminal to receive a passive image to be displayed on the terminal regardless of the presence of active designation by the user of the terminal; and

- means for causing the terminal to receive both the active and the passive image from the information provider and display them on the display.

52. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the

program further comprises display control means for having the passive image and active image be displayed in different display areas provided on the display.

53. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the program further comprises:

detecting means for detecting whether or not the display state of the passive image is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display and within the allowed area of the display; and

warning means for causing the terminal to warn the user when the detecting means detects that the display state is not normal.

54. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 53, wherein the warning means includes means for causing the terminal to display a warning notice on the display.

55. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the program comprises:

detecting means for detecting whether or not the display state of the passive image is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display and within the allowed area of the display; and

delay means for delaying the updating of the active image when the detecting means detects that the display state is not normal.

56. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 55, wherein the delay means delays updating the active image by having the normal transmission of active images from the information provider to the terminal be delayed.

57. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 55, wherein the program comprises means for having the delay means cancel the delay in updating when the detecting means detects that the display state is normal.

58. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the program comprises:

detecting means for detecting whether or not the display state of the passive image is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display and within the allowed area of the display; and

stop means for stopping the updating of the passive image when the detecting means detects that the display state is not normal.

59. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 58, wherein the stop means stops the updating of the active image by stopping the normal transmission of active images from the information provider to the terminal.

60. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 58, wherein the program further comprises means for having the stop means cancel the stopping of the updating when the detecting means detects that the display state is normal.

61. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the program comprises:

detecting means for detecting whether or not the display state is normal, a normal display state being a display state in which the entire passive image is displayed on the front-most surface of the display area and within the allowed area of the display; and

means for having the communication between the terminal and the information provider be disconnected when the detecting means detects that the display state is not normal .

62. A recording medium as claimed in any of Claims 53 through 61, wherein the terminal has a display memory storing and holding the contents of the information displayed on the display, and the detecting means detects whether or not the passive image is displayed in the normal display state based on whether or not there is a coincidence between the contents of the display memory and the passive image transmitted from the information provider in the passive image display area.

63. A terminal having a display and a means for connecting the terminal through a communication line to an information provider which can transmit a plurality of images, the terminal comprising:

means for transmitting a request for an active image actively designated by the user of the terminal to the information provider;

means for receiving the active image selected from among the plurality of images, based on the request, from the information provider;

means for receiving a passive image to be displayed, regardless of the presence of active designation by the user, from the information provider; and

means for displaying both the active and the passive image.